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CLASSIFICATION SECRET

NOFORN

COUNTRY East Germany REPORTTOPIC KVP Mecz Div Potsdam

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EVALUATION  PLACE OBTAINED 

25X1

DATE OF CONTENT 

25X1

DATE OBTAINED 

1 April 1955

REFERENCES 

25X1

PAGES 4 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) REMARKS This is UNEVALUATED Information

25X1

1. Between 1500 and 1600 on 19 February 1955, trucks occupied by KVP soldiers and approximately 10 T-34/85 tanks passed through Zerpenschleuse northwest of Ruhlsdorf and proceeded toward Klosterfelde. <sup>1</sup>
2. Between 18 February and 8 March, little training was observed in the yard of the Sachsenhausen concentration camp in Oranienburg. No AA guns were seen. Two to 5 T-34 tanks, ~~armored~~ armored scout cars and details of up to 20 men repeatedly ~~left~~ for the training area. <sup>1</sup>
3. Between 0930 and 1030 on 8 and 14 March, no training was observed in the former concentration camp. Reports of carbines were heard from the east shore of Lehnitz Lake. <sup>1</sup>
4. A KVP truck driver from the Sachsenhausen concentration camp stated that his unit proceeded to the Jueterbog area during the winter exercises.
5. In connection with an acute fuel shortage in the installations of the post, one Major Wersin was mentioned at the Potsdam quartermaster bureau. It was learned that Major Muench from the staff stationed in Villa Ingenheim had been promoted to lieutenant colonel. 2
6. Between 1115 and 1130 on 24 February, the following vehicles with personnel entered the Ruinenberg Kaserne in Potsdam from the direction of Bornim-Bornstedt:

25X1

30 trucks, each occupied by 18 KVP soldiers wearing medium-blue service color and carrying full field equipment;  
 8 armored personnel carriers, each occupied by 6 KVP soldiers wearing medium-blue service color and each mounting a machine gun on either side of the driver's seat;

25X1

25X1

- 2 -

1 truck occupied by 16 KVP soldiers wearing yellow-bordered black collar patches and carrying cable reels; and  
2 trucks, each towing a 82-mm mortar.

At 1415 on 25 February, the following vehicles and personnel entered the General-Wever Kaserne in Potsdam from the direction of Bornim:

20 trucks, each occupied by 18 KVP soldiers wearing medium-blue service color;  
6 trucks, each towing a 57-mm AT gun and occupied by 16 KVP soldiers wearing red-bordered black collar patches;  
9 armored personnel carriers, each occupied by 6 KVP soldiers;  
1 radio truck and several trucks occupied by KVP soldiers wearing yellow-bordered black collar patches, and  
several trucks with baggage.

A field-grade officer stated that the units stationed in Potsdam returned to the post from tent camps on 24 and 25 February.<sup>3</sup>

7. In the morning of 1 March, intensive activity was observed in the entire Ruinenberg Kaserne. Boxes were being loaded onto trucks. Several trucks were occupied by soldiers. Three trucks towed 57-mm AT guns and 8 to 10 loaded trucks left the installation. Between 3 and 8 March, it appeared that the bulk of the units stationed in the installation was absent. <sup>3</sup>

Contrary to the preceding days, only little activity was observed in the General-Wever Kaserne and the Garde-du-Korps Kaserne on 3 and 4 March. Small details left or drilled at squad level or engaged in fatigue duty.<sup>3</sup> A sick senior lieutenant of the AAA unit stated on 4 March that his battalion had moved to Altengrabow for some 14 days and that firing at towed air sleeves was practiced there. The units from the other installations in Potsdam reportedly transferred to Kietz for exercises. <sup>4</sup>

8. Between 1415 and 1430 on 11 March, the following vehicles and personnel entered the General-Wever Kaserne from the direction of Marquardt:

6 SP guns, 35 trucks, each occupied by 18 KVP soldiers wearing medium-blue service color, 6 trucks each towing a 57-mm AT gun and each occupied by 8 KVP soldiers wearing red-bordered black collar patches, 12 armored scout cars and 4 sedans occupied by officers. <sup>3</sup>

9. On 10 March, a total of approximately 75 trucks, 4 SP guns and many KVP soldiers who engaged in various activities were seen in the Ruinenberg Kaserne, which was occupied by an estimated 1,200 KVP soldiers.

At 0745 on 15 March, the following vehicles and personnel were seen on the Bornim-Fahrland road: 5 jeeps, each occupied by 6 men; 20 trucks, each occupied by 18 men wearing medium-blue service color; 7 SP guns, 16 armored personnel carriers, each occupied by 6 soldiers wearing medium-blue service color and each mounting a 12.7mm machine guns; 25 trucks, each occupied by 18 soldiers wearing medium-blue

SECRET

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25X1

- 3 -

service color; 2 trucks, each towing a 82-mm mortar; and 3 to 4 sedans occupied by officers. The column came from the direction of the Ruinenberg Kaserne. On 12 March, a field-grade officer stated that the Mecz Regt returned to the Ruinenberg Kaserne from Klietz on 9 March and again left for Klietz in the morning of 15 March. Tents had been left in Klietz. 3

10. At about 1330 on 14 March, the following column came from the direction of the Ruinenberg Kaserne and proceeded toward the Wildpark railroad station:

25X1

10 to 12 SP guns, approximately 25 trucks including some occupied by KVP personnel, 8 to 10 guns, presumably 45-mm and 57-mm AT guns, 3 field kitchens and 4 to 5 armored personnel carriers.

The unit was entrained by 1600. The departure of the train could not be observed. 3

11. Between 25 February and 7 March, the KVP installation on the road to Brandenburg in Premnitz was occupied by an estimated 250 KVP soldiers wearing red-bordered black collar patches. No heavy weapons were observed. The KVP men received training with small arms. 5
12. Between 15 and 28 February, reports of heavy weapons were continually heard from the Klietz-Ferchels-Mahlitz training area. On 24 and 25 February, firing continued throughout the night. At about 1700 on 16 February, approximately 30 trucks, 12 guns, presumably 122-mm howitzers, and some 250 Soviet soldiers were seen near Mahlitz en route toward Havelberg. At about 1400 on 18 February, 18 trucks occupied by Soviet soldiers wearing full field equipment came from the direction of Rathenow and proceeded toward Schollene. In the afternoon, an exercise, possibly a joint exercise, of 500 Soviet soldiers and 500 KVP men was held in the Schollene area. In the evening of 19 February, approximately 30 trucks towing guns of various calibers and carrying KVP personnel were seen en route to the KVP camp near the airfield. At about 1400 on 23 February, approximately 40 trucks and 20 guns and several hundred KVP soldiers were detrained at the Gross-Wudicke railroad station and subsequently left for the airfield. At about 1900 on 24 February, approximately 25 trucks with 12 guns presumably 122-mm howitzers and some 400 KVP soldiers assembled in the Mahlitz area. At about 2000 on 26 February, approximately 20 trucks, 10 guns, presumably 76-mm guns, and several hundred KVP soldiers were seen during a rest in the Schollene area. 6
13. During the first half of March, the training area was still restricted. No unusual activity was observed there, however. On 10 and 11 March, several KVP units left the training area and went toward Wudicke and, presumably, Rathenow, particularly at night. 3 At about 2000 on 12 March, many trucks, each occupied by 15 to 20 KVP soldiers carrying full field equipment, about 20 tanks presumably JS-2 and T-34/85 tanks, 20 SP guns presumably including JSU-100 guns, 3 field kitchens and 4 sedans proceeded toward Ferchels via Molkenberg and Schollene. At about 2100 on 15 March, a similar column, with a smaller number of trucks, went in the same direction. 7

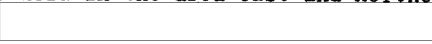
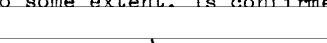
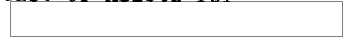
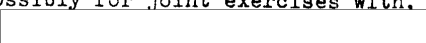
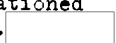


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1. Comment. The Potsdam elements of the Mecz Div Potsdam, as well as the two regiments of the division stationed in Oranienburg, apparently concentrated on winter exercises in the post training area. There are also a few indications that joint exercises of KVP and Soviet units were held in the area east and northeast of Oranienburg in February.  25X1
2. Comment. Major Wersin was reported as chief of the supply section of the QNA Stralsund in July 1954. The chief of the QNA Potsdam, Captain Pech, allegedly was to be transferred to the Ministry of the Interior in March 1955. Muench is known to be deputy commander for supply with the Mecz Div Potsdam. 25X1
3. Comment. The information does not indicate any change in the occupation of the KVP installations in Potsdam. Elements of the Mecz Regt reportedly transferred to the General-Wever Kaserne some time ago which, to some extent, is confirmed by the strength of the columns observed.  The 2d Mecz Regt, the Rcn Bn and the signal battalion of the Mecz Div Potsdam have apparently been rotated to the training area east of Klietz for periods of 6 to 12 days since early February.  25X1
4. Comment. Altengrabow is known as Soviet firing range. The relaxation of the isolation of Soviet and KVP units, which has been observed for about half a year, apparently resulted in a joint utilization of training grounds, possibly with the aim of training and organizing KVP units completely after the Soviet pattern. 25X1
5. Comment. The installation is believed to quarter the Mort Regt of the Mecz Div Potsdam. Elements of the regiment may have been absent from the post for exercises. 25X1
6. Comment. These observations correspond with a previous report, according to which, prior to mid-February, units of the 6th Soviet Arty Div frequently left Rathenow toward the west or for an undetermined destination possibly for joint exercises with, or demonstrations for, KVP units.  25X1  
  
The KVP units are believed to have belonged to the 3d Mecz Regt from Brandenburg-Hohenstuecken and the How Arty Regt from Gloewen of the Mecz Div Potsdam, since no indications have been received that the Mecz Regts from Potsdam and Oranienburg were stationed in the area east of Klietz during the period in question.  25X1  
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7. Comment. It is believed that the Hv Tank SP Regt from Burg was concerned. Deserters, however, did not mention JS-2 tanks and SU-100 guns prior to 1 January 1955.  25X1

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